

MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD IN THE TRANSEPT ON 17TH OCTOBER 2018

Present: The Vicar Celia Forbes Stephen Gell Rob Jones Ailsa Hume
 Jim May Alan Simkins Paul Vernon Mike Wood

Apologies for Absence: Keith McAdam Tim Vickers David Mitchell

The Vicar opened the meeting with a prayer at 8.15 pm.

1) Minutes of the PCC Meeting held 12th September 2018

The minutes were approved as drawn and there were no matters arising.

2) Worship

Classic Car Show - The show was a great success and raised the magnificent sum of £12500. The proceeds were split between The Friends, the Care Group and the Museum. There is an enormous amount of work involved in staging the show, and next year it is essential that more volunteer helpers are recruited. The tentative date of 7th September has been set for next year.

Harvest - There was a very good take up for the Harvest Supper held in the Village Hall. All ages were catered for and the evening was very enjoyable. A small profit after expenses will go to the Friends. Our Harvest Sunday services were well supported as usual.

Churches Together - The usual Christmas card tabling services of the various churches will be combined with a programme for the Advent Calendar events. In order to send this out in good time, it will be available for delivery before the 1st December.

Advent Calendar - Arrangements have been finalised, the programme sorted and stewards being sought.

Remembrance Sunday - the timetable of events will be put in Common Round. Because there will be many more young people attending at St Mary's that morning as there is a Parade for the uniformed organisations, there will be no children's groups as such, although the very young will be catered for in the transept.

Advent Quiet Day - 1st December, **Christingle** - 9th December at 4 pm

Lights of Love - 9th December at 6.30 pm **Holiday Club** - 22nd December,

2 x Crib Services - 24th December **Beer and Carols** - 20th December

Evening service 23rd December, just a low key service, No evening service 30th December
The Crib will need to be set up – 29th November. Our usual pattern of evening services in January and February up to Lent, will be shared with the Methodist and St John Fisher churches - 1st and 3rd weeks at St Mary's, 2nd week at the Methodist Church, and 4th week at St John Fisher Church.

Children's Choir - it was noted how very well the children are performing.

Tim is due back from his training in Seattle on the 22nd October, following which he will take a week's leave to spend time with his family. We have been very pleased to have Andy Gardner on a placement with us for three weeks. It has been a pleasure to have him with

us and hopefully, a benefit to all parties. He has been taking a very active part in services and will preach on Sunday at the 9.30 am service, his last day with us.

3) Treasurer's Report

The accounts up to the end of September were circulated before the meeting. There is an overall surplus, and this is a bit higher than expected. There is a small amount of money left from Catherine Robertson's very kind donation for new hymnbooks. This will be put into the Choir Fund and an appropriate purchase will be made in due course.

The charitable donation to Dementia UK will be made in January, although in financial terms it relates to the year ending 31st December.

4) Mission Action Plan

The new plan, complete with amendments from the last PCC meeting, was circulated prior to the meeting. We now need to address the actions themselves.

5) Churchwardens' Report

A report was circulated prior to the meeting. The Church End gate has now been fixed. Parking in the grounds is still an ongoing problem. In order not to cause too much congestion and inconsiderate parking, it was suggested that the drive should be one way in from Hemel Hempstead Road, and out through Church End. We will see if it is possible to get a couple of 'no entry' signs for the Church End Gateway. The choir will be asked to use the Hollybush Car Park on Sunday mornings, so as to leave space in Hemel Hempstead Road. Parking for weddings and baptisms still cause mayhem when there are large numbers of visitors. Those arranging these parties, will be asked to advise their guests not to park on our grassed areas.

It is several years since the 'Smart Water' was applied to our lead roof. We will obtain a suitable U.V. light to check whether the 'Smart Water' is still active, or whether it needs a further application.

Safeguarding - Jan Lang has provided an initial report. It appears likely that, should we donate funds to another charity (eg. Youth Talk), we should be satisfied that they also have adequate safeguarding in place for clients and officers.

6) Ancillary Buildings

It is now one year since the Old Church Hall was handed over. Snagging is completed, and there was little to report. We can now expect to receive the final invoices from the builder and architect. We do not propose any rent review at the present time. We will contact Allsops to see whether a rent review would be appropriate for the Vicarage Cottage.

7) Stewardship Committee

A meeting has been arranged for the 7th November. Planned Giving and a funding appeal will be discussed and timing arranged. Mike Wood will confirm the membership of this committee to Will. It would be good to have some new pro-active members come forward.

8) Youth Work

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Tim will be asked to confirm whether he has booked FACT again for next year. Teddy Tots have a small amount of money raised at their breakfast meetings, and would like to pass this over to the CFC. A meeting of leaders has been arranged for the 22nd October.

9) Churchyard

Operation Churchyard will take place in two weeks. There has been a further problem with branches falling in the Churchyard. It is noted that two beech trees have bracket fungus and have been condemned. We await St Albans Council's response to this, as the trees may be under a TPO. The Friends have indicated that they may be able to help with the costs incurred.

10) Charitable Finance Committee

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. £600 has been passed on to Music for my Mind. Ann Ross is doing a sponsored walk in aid of Dementia UK on 10 November.

11) Any Other Business

Will will draw up a list of suggested meeting dates for 2019. The APCM should be on the 24th April.

Please note that, as far as possible, reports, minutes etc will always be circulated electronically before a meeting, and either members own printed copies or their electronic equivalent should be brought to meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting closed with the Grace at 9.43 pm.

Next Meetings

Full PCC - 21st November 2018 Please note change of date
Standing Committee - 12th December 2018